

U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA) OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO – Complex Emergency

Situation Report #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2002

August 15, 2002

Note: the last situation report was dated May 2, 2002.

BACKGROUND

Insecurity, the lack of infrastructure, and limited access to vulnerable populations continue to hinder humanitarian assistance in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Joseph Kabila became the President of the DRC on January 26, 2001, following the death of his father, Laurent-Desire Kabila. President Joseph Kabila has publicly committed to fostering peace in the DRC and supporting the Lusaka Peace Accords signed in July–August 1999. A cease-fire has held in accordance with the Lusaka accords for the past year and U.N. Observer Mission in the DRC (MONUC) observers have started to focus on disarmament, demobilization, and resettlement activities for combatants.

The Inter-Congolese Dialogue, hosted in Sun City, South Africa, ended in May 2002 but did not reach an all-party agreement. However, President Kabila and the Uganda-backed opposition group Movement for the Liberation of the Congo (MLC) signed a partial agreement that designated Kabila as interim President and the MLC's Jean-Pierre Bemba as interim Prime Minister. The Rwanda-backed Congolese Democratic Assembly based in Goma, North Kivu Province (RCD-G) and a few other opposition groups did not sign the agreement. On July 30, President Kagame of Rwanda and President Kabila signed a peace agreement in Pretoria, South Africa. The Government of Rwanda (GOR) pledged the withdrawal of all Rwandan forces from DRC territory, and the Government of the DRC (GDRC) agreed to assist in disarming and dismantling ex-Rwandan Armed Forces (ex-FAR) and Hutu militia Interahamwe forces located in the DRC.

Some withdrawal of foreign forces (from Angola, Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zimbabwe) from the DRC has taken place during the past year. Angola, Namibia, and Zimbabwe sent troops in 1998 to support the GDRC, which controls the western part of the country. The MLC based in Gbadolite, Equateur Province controls most of Equateur and some of Orientale Province in the north. The RCD-G controls much of North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema, Orientale, and Katanga Provinces. In the eastern part of the country (northern Katanga, Maniema, North and South Kivu Provinces) fighting has intensified involving, among others, ex-FAR/Interahamwe and Mai Mai forces against the RCD-G.

Insecurity in rural and urban areas has restricted access to agricultural land, decreasing harvest yields and contributing to the food security crisis. Lack of access to traditional markets has discouraged farming. Poverty is widespread and the health care system has eroded due to a lack of resources and continuous looting by different parties in the conflict. Widespread insecurity has resulted in limited private sector activities. President Kabila has attempted to address these economic concerns, however, the economy faces difficult circumstances. The January 17, 2002 eruption of the Mt. Nyiragongo volcano in Goma also strained already limited humanitarian resources. (Please see USAID/OFDA DRC–Volcano Fact Sheet #13 dated August 15, 2002.)

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE	
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	Total: 1,876,000	U.N. Office for the Coordination of	
		Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)	
Refugees from the DRC	Total: 359,909	Office of the U.N. High Commissioner	
		for Refugees (UNHCR)	
Refugees in the DRC	Total: 349,104	UNHCR	
	193,540 from Angola		
	75,450 from Sudan		
	26,875 from Rwanda		
	21,425 from Uganda		
	19,500 from Burundi		
	6,895 from CAR		
	5,419 from the Republic of Congo		

CURRENT SITUATION

Steady Efforts to Establish Peace in the DRC.

The U.N. Secretary-General appointed Moustapha Niasse, Senegal's former prime minister, as U.N. special envoy to the DRC to support peace restoration efforts. The U.N. Secretary-General appointed Lena Sundh from Sweden as the Deputy Special Representative for the DRC.

On May 19, the Inter-Congolese Dialogue negotiations in Sun City, South Africa produced a limited agreement between the GDRC and the MLC for a power-sharing government in Kinshasa. The RCD-G did not sign the agreement. The working group mandated with organizing the implementation of the agreement has encountered difficulties in determining the command structure for the national army, according to international humanitarian sources in early July.

In early July, President Kabila and President Kagame along with ministers from the DRC and Rwanda met in Durban, South Africa on the margins of the Organization for African Unity (OAU) summit in a meeting brokered by South African President Thabo Mbeki and U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

On July 30 in Pretoria, South Africa, the Governments of the DRC and Rwanda signed a peace agreement requiring the withdrawal of Rwandan troops from DRC territory and the dismantling of the ex-FAR and Hutu militia Interahamwe forces in the DRC. On August 12, the Government of South Africa and the United Nations announced the establishment of a joint secretariat to oversee and verify the implementation of the peace agreement. The parties have determined a 90-day implementation timeline. The agreement calls for the repatriation of Rwandan forces in DRC back to Rwanda, including 2,000 Rwandans currently located at in Kamina, Katanga Province. The GOR estimates that more than 50,000 ex-FAR and Interahamwe forces are based in the DRC while MONUC speculates between 8,000 and 15,000 remain. In mid-August, President Kabila of the DRC announced his willingness to sign a similar peace agreement with the Government of Uganda.

On August 13, the Government of Angola hosted a meeting between government delegations from the DRC and Uganda to discuss the withdrawal of approximately 1,000 Ugandan soldiers from the DRC. On August 13, international media sources also reported that President Mugabe of Zimbabwe would like to withdraw Zimbabwe's more than 3,000 forces from DRC territory.

Economic Recovery Measures.

On July 3, President Kabila signed a presidential decree establishing a national minimum wage of 335 Congolese francs per day, or approximately one U.S. dollar per day. However, the ongoing conflict has limited growth of the

Congolese economy and the capacity for the government or businesses to meet the minimum wage standard has not vet been evaluated.

There have been a number of improvements in the Congo's economic arena in recent months. For example, current inflation rates have decreased from 511 percent in 2000 to approximately 5 percent in 2002 according to international media sources.

On June 10, the GDRC cleared its \$81.0 million in overdue service payments to the World Bank and International Development Association (IDA), facilitating the restoration of all loans and IDA credits and eligibility for disbursements under existing loans, credits, project facility advances, and new operations. On June 13, the World Bank approved an IDA credit for \$450.0 million as a part of a larger multilateral aid package that focuses on HIV/AIDS assistance, education, health, and infrastructure development. The President of the World Bank, James Wolfensohn, visited the DRC in mid-July. Wolfensohn proposed the cancellation of more than 80 percent of the DRC's \$12.0 billion debt, for which a decision will be made in early 2003.

On June 26, the African Development Fund and the African Development Bank (ADB) approved a mechanism to clear arrears of \$800.0 million owed by the GDRC. For the first time in five years, the ADB gave \$43.0 million to the GDRC and lent the country an additional \$15.0 million in late July. These developments are an integral part of the DRC's economic improvement, which would in turn assist vulnerable populations currently receiving humanitarian assistance.

Efforts to establish commercial traffic throughout the DRC continue. At the beginning of July, the Congolese National Railroad Company (SNCC) announced that it would commence travel along the 450 km Kananga-Ilebo route in western Kasai Province once per week. The United Nations announced the initial resumption of commercial traffic on the Congo River with the departure of two barges from Kinshasa to Equateur Province on July 20.

Although insecurity remains a key concern, a barge of humanitarian food and health supplies provided by USAID arrived in Kisangani, Orientale Province at the end of May to assist vulnerable populations in Kisangani, Bumba, and Lisala. However, possible scope of commercial activities has not been determined and commercial traffic travels through some areas that remain insecure. Commercial traffic ceased along the Congo River in August 1998 as a result of increasing conflictrelated insecurity, but in July, commercial traffic resumed between GDRC and MLC areas along the Congo River.

Continuing Economic Hardship.

Continuing insecurity along Congo's rivers has limited economic rehabilitation. For example, the lack of

commercial traffic between Mbandaka in Equateur Province and Kisangani in Orientale Province along the Congo River for the past five years has diminished the local economy of Mbandaka. The capital city of Equateur Province was once the commercial and transport center of northern DRC because of the coffee, corn, soy, cocoa, rice, and wood plantations in the province. The presence of MONUC military observers and civilian staff has contributed to some revitalization of Mbandaka, but economic observers indicate that consistent and secure commercial traffic along the Congo River would positively affect the local economy.

Ongoing Insecurity Throughout the DRC.

USAID/OFDA field personnel and international humanitarian sources reported on May 13 that a group of RCD-G opposition forces seized the radio station in Kisangani, and asked the population to rise up against the Rwandans, resulting in a five-hour gun battle between Rwanda-backed RCD-G and regular Rwandan forces. The situation in the city calmed within a few days, but indicated the growing sentiment in eastern DRC against the presence of Rwandan troops in the region. The U.N. Special Rapporteur on extra-judicial, summary, or arbitrary executions, following a visit to the DRC between 16 and 22 June, concluded that RCD-G officials killed approximately 103 civilians and 60 uniformed men during the Kisangani fighting. The U.N. Human Rights Coordinator has called for the immediate arrest of the RCD-G forces and civilian perpetrators who ordered and carried out the killings.

On June 21, Mai-Mai militia forces allied with the Kinshasa government seized the town of Pweto in southeastern DRC from the RCD-G. However, the RCD-G regained control of the town in early July. Under disengagement agreements organized in Kampala and Harare in 2000, the RCD-G forces were to have withdrawn from Pweto.

In another indication of the difficulties facing humanitarian actors in the DRC, in June armed men looted medicines from USAID/OFDA-funded International Rescue Committee (IRC) health centers in the Kabare health zone north of Bukavu in South Kivu Province. The attacks prompted the IRC to relocate some of its medicines to larger, more secure locations. The looters also targeted private homes in the area surrounding the health centers and stole food, livestock, and household equipment.

According to humanitarian organizations and USAID/OFDA personnel in the DRC, on July 19 RCD-G allegedly demanded a \$23,000 "expatriate food tax" from the NGO AirServ International in Goma, North Kivu Province. USAID/OFDA provided \$1.2 million to Airserv in FY 2002 for essential passenger and light humanitarian cargo air service for NGOs to assist remote, vulnerable populations throughout eastern DRC. Airserv refused to pay the tax and air operations were temporarily

suspended. After further discussions, the RCD-G allowed AirServ to maintain the humanitarian flights.

Maniema Province: Thousands of residents located 500 km southwest of Bukavu in Maniema Province were temporarily forced to flee into the forest when RCD-G troops attacked the town of Kampene on June 8. A Mai-Mai militia faction had seized control of the gold and coltan laden area from the RCD-G one month previously.

International non-governmental organizations (NGOs) report that the situation in Kindu, the capital of Maniema Province, has deteriorated in recent months and less than 10 percent of the population remains self-sufficient. More than 27,000 people have been displaced by Mai-Mai attacks in 2002, prompting the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to mobilize seeds and tools for 10,000 vulnerable families to assist in the September harvest.

On August 2, more than 350 people arrived in Kindu in east-central DRC after fleeing fighting between Congolese Mai-Mai militia and RCD-G troops in Kailo, 50 km to the north. Residents in Kindu have not ventured outside the town to cultivate their crops due to security concerns and as a result, humanitarian sources warn of increasing food shortages in the region. USAID/OFDA currently supports emergency health programs in Kindu through the NGO MERLIN.

Haute Plateau/Minembwe, South Kivu Province: In early July, international humanitarian sources reported that fighting between primarily Rwandan troops and Banyamulenge (Congolese Tutsi pastoralists) forces led by Patrick Musunzu prompted the displacement of more than 50,000 people on the Minembwe/Itombwe Plateau in South Kivu Province. Humanitarian sources report that food assistance could become critical because of combatants' needs decreasing the recent harvest and insecurity limiting access to grazing and pastoral lands.

On July 18, representatives from UNICEF, UN OCHA, the World Health Organization (WHO), and other aid organizations visited Uvira, South Kivu Province for the first time since June. The team evaluated the humanitarian situation, health, education, literacy, nutrition, and water purification needs of approximately 50,000 people displaced by recent fighting, and provided humanitarian assistance to vulnerable groups.

A U.N. humanitarian assessment team visited Minembwe in South Kivu Province on August 2 but Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA) officials denied access to IDPs in the region due to ongoing insecurity. On August 3, more than 100 RCD-G troops denied the humanitarian mission access to Baraka, located near Lake Tanganyika, in South Kivu. RCD-G officials later apologized for the incident, explaining a lack of coordination between RCD-G headquarters, which granted access to the mission, and local commanders on the ground. The mission visited the Baraka on August 8, however, the incident highlights to

continuing difficulties humanitarian organizations experience in assessing humanitarian needs and providing assistance in eastern DRC.

Bunia, Ituri Province: Clashes between the opposition group the Congolese Democratic Assembly – Liberation Movement (RCD-ML) and a splinter militia group within the RCD-ML representing the minority Hema ethnic group killed an estimated 40 people during the week of July 8–12 in Bunia, in northwest Ituri province. According to international humanitarian sources, Ugandan People's Defense Forces (UPDF) assisted the Hema militia during the fighting.

Intense fighting occurred between ethnic groups, militia forces, and the UPDF in Bunia between August 6 and 10. More than 100 people were reportedly killed in the fighting between Uganda-supported Hema militias and an Congolese Democratic Assemebly–Kisangani–Liberation Movement (RCD-K-ML) faction called the Union of Congolese Patriots, according to international humanitarian sources. The clashes caused population displacements and stressed already limited humanitarian access to the region.

Update on MONUC.

MONUC has disarmed and demobilized 1,800 ex-FAR soldiers in the DRC, according to international humanitarian sources. As of May 31, there are 3,719 total uniformed personnel in the DRC, including 449 military observers, 3,256 troops and 14 civilian police, who are supported by 528 international and 289 local civilian personnel.

On June 17, the U.N. Security Council extended MONUC's mandate until June 2003. The council urged member states to commit additional resources to increase MONUC from approximately 3,800 personnel to the authorized level of 5,537 people. The Secretary-General warned that at current levels, MONUC could not rapidly intervene to protect civilians, as articulated in its mandate. President Kabila supports the increased mission strength. MONUC's presence has facilitated some improvements in the overall security situation in the DRC, which assists humanitarian operations.

Humanitarian Coordination.

Due to the size and scope of humanitarian activities in DRC, coordination of assistance programs remains problematic. In addition, insecurity and limited humanitarian access have hindered coordination efforts.

Between May 27 and June 8, a six-nation donor mission conducted an assessment of humanitarian coordination in the DRC. The mission met with representatives of U.N. agencies, NGOs, the International Red Cross Society (ICRC), and GDRC officials in Bukavu, Bunia, Goma, Kinshasa, and Kisangani. Mission members concluded the need for an increased UN OCHA focus on core organizational functions: coordinating the humanitarian community's response to emergency operations to save lives in the short-term. Among other issues, the mission

determined the need for a high-level negotiator to discuss humanitarian access with non-state actors, and further clarification of MONUC's relationship with humanitarian activities in the DRC.

Ongoing Health Concerns.

Since June 24, a lack of chlorine that the national water company would use to purify river water in Gbadolite in Equateur Province has resulted in a decreased potable water supply. Gbadolite is located on the DRC's northern border with the Central African Republic. While the water company continues to try and provide water, the lack of chlorine indicates the difficulty in obtaining basic resources in the DRC.

In early July, humanitarian organizations including the ICRC reported an estimated 100 cases of cholera in Kalemie, Katanga Province in southeastern DRC. Up to 60 cases per day are admitted to the Cholera Treatment Center. Humanitarian organizations continue to monitor the situation closely and are responding with water purification assistance and other emergency activities.

According to a report released by the NGO Save the Children/UK, conflict has facilitated the spread of HIV/AIDS through the exploitation of women forced into sexual bartering by economic hardship, population displacements, low levels of HIV awareness, minimal sexual and reproductive health services, and an increased likelihood of the usage of unscreened blood. According to Save the Children, approximately 680,000 children have lost parents to AIDS in the DRC and many have become heads of households.

The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) reports that 24 people have died out of 4,000 cases of measles in Kinshasa since the beginning of the year. The disease has spread from eastern into the central and western districts of the capital, prompting UNICEF to respond with an accelerated vaccination campaign.

Continuing Food Security Needs.

Following a June assessment, the FAO reported significant caloric deficiencies and food insecurity in the poorest areas of Kinshasa. Limited resources such as fishing equipment, overexploitation due to population pressures, and limited transportation infrastructure have decreased the purchasing power of residents. According to FAO, the high rate of unemployment (22 percent) and underemployment in the informal sector (33 percent) has adversely affected the economic situation of Congolese in the capital. FAO has also expressed concern about the nutritional situation in Kasai Orientale province and Katanga Province where insecurity has limited humanitarian access.

In early July, WFP resumed a six-week emergency airlift operation to provide 1,100 metric tons (MT) of maize meal, pulses, corn soya blend, vegetable oil, sugar, and salt to feeding centers in eight villages in northern Katanga Province. The food will assist an estimated

24,000 people until September who remain isolated as a result of the ongoing civil strife. The current airlift funded by USAID/OFDA, Norway, and Switzerland, follows two airlifts in June and October 2001 that provided approximately 900 MT of relief commodities to Katanga Province.

As of July 29, WFP had received 72 percent of its \$116.0 million appeal to provide assistance to more than 1.4 million food insecure vulnerable people in the DRC. Of the total appeal, the USG has contributed more than 56 percent of the food resources.

At the end of July, the humanitarian arm of MONUC appealed to international organizations for emergency health and food assistance in Waka and Djefera towns in northwestern Equateur Province following an assessment. Deteriorating roads have isolated the two towns and resulted in high rates malnutrition and child mortality rates.

Update on the Volcanoes in Eastern DRC.

The January 17, 2002 eruption of the Mt. Nyiragongo volcano adversely impacted more than 100,000 people in the Goma region. Mt. Nyimuragira erupted on July 25, 2002. Volcanologists are monitoring the minor threats of another eruption of Mt. Nyiragongo or Mt. Nyamuragira.

For more detailed information, see USAID/OFDA DRC-Volcano Fact Sheet #13 dated August 15, 2002.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

On November 5, 2001, U.S. Ambassador Aubrey Hooks re-declared a disaster for the ongoing complex emergency in the DRC as a result of the continued fighting since August 1998.

To date in FY 2002, USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) has provided more than \$15.1 million in emergency assistance to the DRC and is reviewing options for additional assistance focused primarily on health services and improving food security. USAID/OFDA also supports emergency market infrastructure rehabilitation and agricultural programs for war-affected, vulnerable, and internally displaced persons. Programs that immediately provide assistance to the most vulnerable as well as projects that build local capacity are integrated to promote livelihoods. An important component of USAID/OFDA assistance is the funding of AirServ International to operate three humanitarian aircraft in areas outside of government control. USAID/OFDA also contributed more than \$4.7 million in relief assistance for victims of the January volcano eruption. USAID/OFDA also supports two Emergency Disaster Response Coordinators (EDRCs) in the DRC to monitor the humanitarian situation throughout the country and make programmatic recommendations to USAID/OFDA in Washington.

USAID's Office of Food For Peace (FFP) has provided more than 14,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance to WFP in FY 2002, valued at approximately \$10.0 million. WFP's Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) in the DRC aims to assist more than 1.2 million food insecure IDPs, refugees, and other vulnerable people throughout the DRC. Activities range from direct distribution of food in critical emergency situations and support to supplemental and therapeutic feeding centers to food for work (FFW) activities in support of agricultural infrastructure rehabilitation and food for training.

USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) has developed a national, multi-faceted program to support the transition to peace in the DRC. The program will establish a foundation for the advancement to democracy and assist in the country's reunification by fostering exchanges across the country. USAID/OTI will promote access to balanced information, encourage public participation in the peace process, and build the capacity of civil society through the provision of resources to a broad range of organizations. The total cost of the transition program is \$3.3 million.

In FY 2002, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has provided 18,400 MT of 416(b) surplus food commodities to the DRC to assist in emergency food needs. The more than \$15.0 million worth of food commodities includes 16,900 MT of cornmeal and 1,500 MT of vegetable oil.

The State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) has provided more than \$5.4 million to the DRC in FY 2002. State/PRM provided more than \$4.7 million to UNHCR to assist refugees in the DRC, and approximately \$700,000 to the International Rescue Committee (IRC) for camp management, health, water, sanitation, and agriculture assistance to Angolan refugees in Bas Congo Province in western DRC. State/PRM also provided assistance to WFP. Since the death of Angolan opposition leader Jonas Savimbi in February 2002, approximately 9,500 Angolan refugees have spontaneously returned to Angola from the DRC. UNHCR plans to facilitate a voluntary refugee return program beginning in 2003.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE DRC

Agency	Implementing Partner	Sector	Regions	Amount
		FY 2002		
USAID	***************************************		•••••	\$28,489,565
USAID/	OFDA		••••••	\$15,131,965 ²
	Action Against Hunger/	Integrated health, nutrition, food	Uvira, South Kivu	\$2,242,970
	USA (AAH/USA)	security, water/sanitation	Province	
	AAH/USA	Emergency health for war-affected	Katanga Province	\$477,30
	AirServ International	Air transport	Country-wide	\$1,209,870
	Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Health	Kabinda	\$201,502
	Food for the Hungry (FHI)	Food security	South Kivu and northern Katanga Provinces	\$744,57
	FHI	Food security	Northern Katanga Province	\$2,663,199
	International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health care and nutrition assistance	Bunyakiri, South Kivu Province	\$886,362
	International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Emergency health	Bunyakrir health zones, South Kivu Province	\$2,695,414
	MERLIN	Health	Maniema Province	\$878,030
	MERLIN	Health	Kasai Orientale Province	\$163,06
	UNICEF	Emergency health	Country-wide	\$1,500,000
	UN WFP	Special Operations – air transport of food	Northern Katanga Province	\$919,829
	UN WHO	Health coordination	Country-wide	\$332,688
	Administrative costs		Kinshasa and Washington, D.C.	\$217,150
USAID/	FFP			\$10,057,600
	WFP	14,000 in P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance (9,000 MT maize, 3,000 MT beans, 1,000 MT corn-soy blend, and 1,000 MT vegetable oil)		\$10,057,600
USAID/	OTI			
		Programs in support of peace initiatives and transition to democracy	Country-wide	. , ,
USDA	•••••		•••••	\$15,050,370
	WED	16,900 MT of cornmeal and 1,500 MT of vegetable oil in 416 (b) surplus food		Φ15 O5O 27t
STATE	WFP /PDM	commodities		\$15,050,370 \$5,460,985
		A solictor as for refusers in the DDC	Country wide	. , ,
	UNHCR	Assistance for refugees in the DRC	Country-wide	\$4,440,000
	UNHCR	Refugee children's programs	Country-wide	\$300,00
	IRC	Assistance for Angolan refugees	Bas-Congo Province	\$699,98
	WFP	Full cost recovery ance to the DRC in FY 2002	Country-wide	\$21,000



Bernd McConnell Director

Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance

*USAID/OFDA bulletins can be obtained from the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.html

¹ The USAID total does not reflect USAID's Africa Bureau FY 2002 planned budget of \$21.2 million in development assistance.

² The USAID/OFDA total does not include \$4,790,117 provided for relief activities in the response to the January 17, 2002 eruption of Mt. Nyiragongo in Goma, North Kivu Province.

